

BRIEFING



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AUGUST 2006

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EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

VOTE

PRIMARY ELECTION – SEPTEMBER 12**GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 7**

BLOOMINGTON CITIZENS WILL HAVE THE opportunity to exercise their right to vote for candidates seeking election to federal, state, and county offices this fall. Prior to Election Day, voters should verify their polling location.
See page 6.



BEST IN COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTERS CAPTURE FIRST-PLACE AWARDS

THE CITY BROUGHT HOME TWO FIRST-place Awards of Excellence from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC) Northern Lights Awards.

The *Briefing* won in the category of external newsletters. Judges were impressed with the *Briefing's* mix of in-depth informational articles and resident features. The City's internal newsletter, *Insider*, won for its appealing design, focus on employees and emphasis on customer service.

The Northern Lights Awards recognizes the best in government communications. MAGC members represent federal, state, regional, county and local government, as well as school districts, universities and colleges, nonprofit organizations and agencies serving these organizations.

CREEKSIDE OPEN HOUSE LEARN ABOUT SAFETY

JOIN THE FUN AT THE 4TH ANNUAL Safety Festival and Creekside Open House on Saturday, August 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at 9801 Penn Ave. S.



AN ALL-AMERICAN BIRD BALD EAGLES FLY HIGH IN BLOOMINGTON

RESIDENTS DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR TO SPOT A NATIONAL TREASURE. THE AMERICAN Bald Eagle has nested in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge almost every year since 1989.

This season the refuge is home to eight nesting bald eagles who usually return to the same nests year after year. Their large nests are easy to identify – some reach 10 feet across and weigh 2,000 pounds.

Facing extinction a few decades ago, the bald eagle population is on the rise thanks to protections such as its listing as a U.S. Endangered Species, habitat improvement and the banning of the pesticide DDT that contaminated its food source. Currently, there are an estimated 7,066 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the United States and around 700 nesting pairs in Minnesota.

Catch a glimpse of soaring eagles around Old Cedar Avenue or check out the nest visible from the refuge's Visitor Center, 3815 American Blvd. E. Natural history, cultural and wildlife tours are provided on Tuesdays through the end of October. For more information, call 952-858-0740.

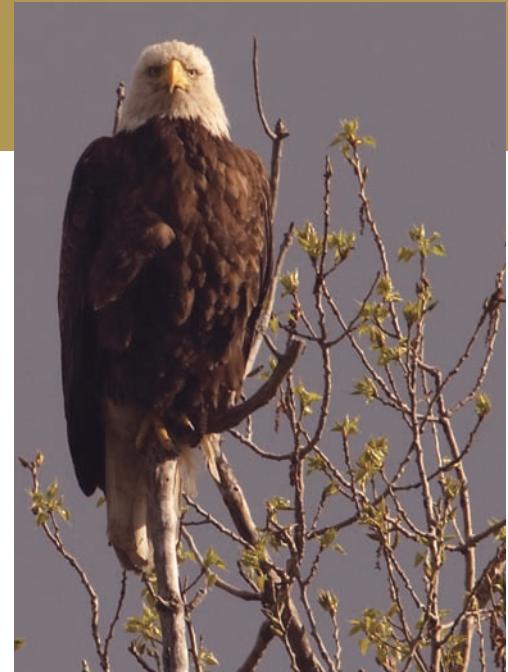


Photo credit: Scott W. Sharkey



COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Have a say in what Bloomington will look like in the next 20 years. A series of town hall meetings will be held this fall to discuss and gather community input on Bloomington's future.

Tuesday, Sept. 19 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Oak Grove middle School Auditorium, 1300 W. 106th St.

Tuesday, Sept. 26 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Olson Middle School Auditorium, 4551 W. 102nd St.

Thursday, Oct. 5 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Northwestern Health Sciences University, 2501 W. 84th St.

Thursday, Oct. 12 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Valley View Middle School Auditorium, 8900 Portland Ave. S.

BLOOMINGTON'S FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY INPUT

By Mayor Gene Winstead

IN A RECENT SURVEY PUBLISHED BY *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine, the Twin Cities metropolitan area ranked second in a list of the 50 Smart Places to Live in the United States. Readers ranked cities according to reasonable home prices, access to quality health care, education options, strength of the local economy and cost of living.

Kiplinger's top ranking confirms what many of us already know – Bloomington, one of the key communities in the metropolitan area, is a great place to live. Our community enjoys top-quality schools, excellent financial strength, convenient access to transportation amenities including the airport and light rail, 9,000 acres of parks and open space, and property taxes that are among the lowest in the metropolitan area.

For continued success, it is important to consider how we will meet future challenges that include an aging population, different housing needs, traffic congestion and increasing energy costs. The City Council, City staff and strategic partners have been identifying trends that will impact Bloomington in the next 20 years.

To address these trends, a preliminary vision is being developed that will position the community to take advantage of opportunities, ensuring the brightest future for Bloomington. The vision will be presented to the community in a series of town hall meetings in September and early October. *See sidebar at right.* The community will be able to take an active role in refining the preliminary vision. Residents will also have an opportunity to participate in an online survey on the City's Web site in the next few months.

I look forward to hearing your ideas. Your input is key to Bloomington's future and will help our community achieve its long-term vision.



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